

Kara Pilcher

Title: *Good Night, Mourning*

Artist's Statement

“Good Night, Mourning” plays with the words of the book title, “Good Morning, Midnight” by Lily Brooks-Dalton. It depicts my hopeful conviction of the ultimate grace Sully and Augie receive in their search for love and forgiveness.

My mindscape/landscape depicts the life journey of Augie and Sully. We are all travelling in this universe grasping daily for understanding, success, knowledge, acceptance, etc..... yet seldom in our busy 24-hour day do we contemplate the true trajectory of our entire life. In this post-apocalyptic story, the characters are forced under extreme circumstances to grapple with memories and regrets.

This watercolor collage leads the viewer through the story with the footsteps of Augie, starting as human and morphing into polar bear tracks. They meander past the snow angel Iris made, evoking the imprinted memory of Augie's daughter. The tracks lead up past the polar bear and wolves on into the sky, which holds memories of both characters lives.

The aurora borealis portrays Augie's discarded women, the unopened presents he sent his daughter, the fish that provided food, and the books representing the striving for superior knowledge. Sully's haunted memories include her daughter sitting on her new mother's lap with Sully's ex-husband; and Sully's mother with her younger twin half-sisters. The cards were a memory she had with her mother, as well as entertainment on the spacecraft. The name of the town “Socorro” (meaning “help” in Spanish) is where her mother found peace and a new life. The radio beams fragile communication. Opening into the farthest reaches viewed from earth is the inset heart framing the North Star, which is part of Ursa Minor, also called the Little Bear. This heart, mapping the point of orientation, focuses on Augie and Sully's search for love throughout their lives and the universe.

BIO:

One might guess that I would major in art, after growing up in Chula Vista, CA in a family that valued creating...sewing, remodeling, furniture building, metal work, etc. But, no, I earned a BA in Literature and Spanish and a Masters in the Art of Teaching at Lewis and Clark College. I taught high school Spanish in Portland Public Schools for 10 years. Once I had a home of my own and was staring at blank walls, I enrolled in a watercolor class at the local community college. That eventually led to serving as President of the Watercolor Society of Oregon, becoming a Signature Member of Northwest Watercolor Society, experimenting with hand-pulled printmaking, and teaching various watercolor classes and workshops. I am represented at Portland Art Museum Rental Sales Gallery, rentalsalesgallery.com and Lunaria Gallery, lunariagallery.com in Silverton, OR.

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